

Franco is my good friend and he is a true champion of the people. He has always been available to discuss issues and work together to make our Central Valley a better place to live and work. I extend to him my very best wishes and ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the commitment, dedication, and success of Frank C. Franco.

RECOGNIZING RYAN HARDY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of Central Ohio's very own hometown heroes, cancer survivor, Ryan Hardy.

Ryan's long, difficult journey finally came to an end when he joyously rang the bell to signify his final chemotherapy treatment last month at Nationwide Children's Hospital. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the young age of two and was later diagnosed with leukemia when he was only eight years old.

Ryan was extremely courageous, enduring treatments for almost 10 years with the love and support of family, friends, and the hospital's staff. Ryan and the people around him never gave up hope. He tried to live life as normally as possible by taking part in activities like playing on the youth football team.

Ryan's story reminds us that we shouldn't take life for granted. With faith, hope and endurance we can overcome many obstacles in life. I am proud to represent heroes like Ryan Hardy in Ohio's 15th Congressional District. I commend him for his courage and am happy to hear that he was able to finally ring the bell.

HONORING ARMY STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW J. WEST AND MARINE SERGEANT DAVID P. DAY

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, July 29, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., the citizens of Gaylord, Michigan, gathered to rededicate their Fallen Heroes Memorial and pay tribute to the lives of two service members who lost their lives in service to their country during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Matthew J. West grew up in Gaylord, Michigan, and graduated from Gaylord High School in 1992. He returned to Gaylord after graduating from Northern Michigan University in 1997, and enlisted in the Army in June of 2004.

SSG West completed three tours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and was highly decorated. His honors included the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, Meritorious Unit Citation, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on

Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge and the Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge.

SSG West died on August 30, 2010, in the Arghandab River Valley, Afghanistan. SSG West was killed by an improvised explosive device, along with four other soldiers from his unit. He served with the 71st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, tasked with locating and eliminating bomb threats.

SSG West was laid to rest, with full military honors, in Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, their three young children, sons Tyler and Joseph, and daughter Annaliese, as well as a large extended family.

Marine Staff Sergeant (SSgt) David P. Day was born in Englewood, Colorado, on November 13, 1984, and grew up in Gaylord, Michigan. A 2003 graduate of Gaylord High School, he excelled in hockey and served as co-captain for the Otsego County Recreational Hockey Team. SSgt Day married Nicole Makins on October 6, 2009. SSgt Day enlisted in the Marine Corps immediately following high school and was a seven-year veteran, serving two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. He was an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician for the elite Marine Force Recon. SSgt Day died on April 24, 2011, while conducting combat operations in Badghis Province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Camp Lejeune, NC.

SSgt David P. Day's Awards and Decorations include the Bronze Star and Combat "V" for Valor (posthumously), Purple Heart Medal (posthumously), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with the V device, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the NATO Service Medal, Parachutist (Jump) Wings, Expert Marksmanship Badge and EOD Badge.

SSgt Day is survived by his wife, Nicole, his parents Don and Kathy; sister, Samantha Day; grandparents, Janice and Pirie Benson of Gaylord and Grace Day of Missouri; mother and father-in-law, Robert and Patricia Makins; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

These men were combat hardened, professional soldiers. They willingly enlisted in the United States Armed Forces in order to defend their country. They both became experts in explosive ordnance disposal despite the elevated risks associated with the job. SSG West and SSgt Day made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and have earned the lasting gratitude of this community and of our nation.

"He which hath no stomach to this fight let him depart. But we in it shall be remembered. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers!! For he today, that sheds his blood with me, shall always be my brother."—William Shakespeare

HONORING MAJOR KHIEEM JACKSON

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Major Khieem Jackson, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his transfer from the Marine Corps Liaison office. I and many of my colleagues have had the pleasure of working closely with him over the past three years, as he has served as part of the Marine Corps' Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives. He has done exemplary work in this capacity, working tirelessly in behalf of not just his fellow Marines, but also the Members and staff of this Chamber, and the American people.

Many Americans may not be aware of the tremendously important role of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. By acting as a conduit between the Marine Corps and the Congress, this hard-working team provides a vital link between our military leaders and the American people's elected representatives. Major Jackson stepped into this role with extraordinary dedication and enthusiasm. He was able to develop and execute legislative strategy for the United States Marine Corps that was instrumental in creating a fiscal and policy landscape conducive to training and equipping the Nation's most elite fighting force and ensuring its success on the battlefield. His candor and expertise were essential in developing close working relationships with many Members of the House of Representatives and Committee Staffs—a cornerstone of Commandant of the Marine Corps' strategic vision and a vital aspect of civil-military relations.

Throughout his tour, Major Jackson personally supervised the response to hundreds of congressional inquiries, some of which gained national-level attention. Through his exceptional inter-personal skills and broad knowledge in a wide range of military affairs, he assisted the Director, Marine Corps Liaison Office, in gaining the Members' support and trust on critical issues.

Major Jackson also successfully planned, coordinated, and escorted an extensive number of international and domestic missions for Congressional and Staff Delegations. I had the pleasure of leading many such CODELs that Major Jackson helped to organize, under the auspices of the House Democracy Partnership. His impressive attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed our delegations to focus exclusively on our mission to promote the building of sound democratic institutions around the world. Major Jackson was an invaluable member of our team, and we remain deeply grateful for his tremendous work.

Through his exceptional personal efforts, Major Jackson has contributed immeasurably in the Marine Liaison Office here on Capitol Hill. I wish him well in all of his future endeavors, and look forward to hearing of his many successes to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID
BOSTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Boston, a talented and respected builder from Crossroads, Texas. After many years of private custom home building, and ten years of employment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Mr. Boston is retiring.

Mr. Boston was a sought-after custom home builder in Denton for many years. After retiring from that profession, he accepted a part-time position with FEMA in 2002. Four years later in 2006, Mr. Boston accepted a full-time position with the agency. He served as a National Hazard Mitigation Specialist where he investigated properties that were damaged by disasters like Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike. In his tenure at FEMA, he investigated over 46,000 sites.

Due to his prior experience building private homes, Mr. Boston was able to deal favorably with sub-contractors. Because of this advantage, he saved FEMA and American taxpayers nearly \$25 million. In addition to his commitment and dedication to FEMA, Mr. Boston was always equally dedicated to the home owners and businesses with whom he worked.

Mr. Boston retired in May, 2012 after ten years of service. Upon his retirement, he will serve as a Republican precinct chair beginning in August of 2012. As Mr. Boston retires from a long and dedicated career, I would like to recognize his accomplishment and service, as well as congratulate him on a job well done. His experience and skills are evident to all he worked with. It is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize and represent Mr. Boston in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL
GINA FARRISEE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the dedication and selfless service of Major General Gina Farrisee, who will culminate her 34-year Army career as the Commanding General of Human Resources Command in Ft. Knox, Kentucky.

As a Member of Congress, a Kentuckian, and a former Army Officer, it is an honor to recognize Major General Farrisee today before the United States House of Representatives. She is a native of Virginia, a 1978 graduate of the University of Richmond and the National Defense University in 1998. She was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, serving her career as an Adjutant General Officer.

Major General Farrisee's career highlights include a variety of command and staff positions at Army installations around the world to include Germany, Ft. Bliss, TX; Ft. Lewis, WA; Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN; and Ft. Jackson, SC. During several key assignments in the Pentagon she worked for the Chief of Staff of

the Army, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy and four years as the Army's Director of Military Personnel Management. Her highly successful command assignments included battalion command at Ft. Lewis, brigade command at Ft. Benjamin Harrison and the Army's Soldier Support Institute at Ft. Jackson. Most recently, Major General Farrisee headed Army Human Resources Command, at Ft. Knox in my district. Her selfless service, professionalism and expertise were highlighted while assigned as the 61st Adjutant General of the Army.

Throughout her service, Major General Farrisee has been a shining example for our Nation. It has been my pleasure to highlight Major General Farrisee's long and decorated career today. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in commending and thanking Major General Farrisee for a lifetime of service during peace and wartime to her country. Her sacrifices and contributions will be forever remembered in the Soldiers and families she mentored and inspired. Those same Soldiers will miss her leadership, technical competence, mentorship and enthusiasm, as well as her daily inspiration—"It's a Great Day to be a soldier. . . . Hooah!"

For all she and her family have given to our country, we are in debt. We wish her and her husband David, all the best as they continue their journey.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION IN
SUPPORT OF THE XIX INTER-
NATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution in support of the XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012), which takes place from July 22, 2012, through July 27, 2012, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. AIDS 2012 is organized by the International AIDS Society (IAS) and brings together more than 20,000 delegates from nearly 200 countries, including 2,000 journalists. My resolution supports a stronger international response to HIV/AIDS that seeks to prevent the transmission of HIV, increase access to testing, treatment, and care, improve health outcomes for all people living with HIV/AIDS, foster greater scientific and programmatic collaborations around the world to end HIV/AIDS, and protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

According to UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, there are approximately 33.4 million people living with HIV worldwide, and nearly 30 million people have died of AIDS since the first cases were reported in 1981. The United States is heavily engaged in both international and domestic efforts to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, including the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Taxpayers in the United States have paid more than \$45 billion through PEPFAR and the Global Fund, which have enjoyed broad bipartisan support in Congress.

Since 1985, the now biennial International AIDS Conference has brought together lead-

ing scientists, public health experts, policymakers, community leaders, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS from around the world to enhance the global response to HIV/AIDS, evaluate recent scientific developments, share knowledge, and facilitate a collective strategy to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic. AIDS 2012 is a tremendous opportunity to strengthen the role of the United States in global HIV/AIDS initiatives within the context of significant global economic challenges, reenergize the response to the domestic epidemic, and focus particular attention on the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS that continues in the United States.

The theme of AIDS 2012, "Turning the Tide Together," embodies the promise and urgency of utilizing recent scientific advances in HIV/AIDS treatment and biomedical prevention, continuing research for an HIV vaccine and cure, and increasing effective, evidence-based interventions in key settings to change the course of the HIV/AIDS crisis. AIDS 2012 seeks to engage governments, non-governmental organizations, policymakers, the scientific community, the private sector, civil society, faith-based organizations, the media, and people living with HIV/AIDS to more effectively address regional, national, and local responses to HIV/AIDS around the world and overcome barriers that limit access to preventive care, treatment, and other services.

My resolution supports the goal of bringing renewed awareness of, and commitment to, addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis in the United States and abroad. In particular, it recognizes that formulating sound public health policy, protecting human rights, addressing the needs of women and girls, directing effective programming toward the populations at the highest risk of infection, ensuring accountability, and combating stigma, poverty, and other social challenges related to HIV/AIDS are key to overcoming HIV/AIDS. It also encourages the ongoing development of innovative therapies and advances in clinical treatment for HIV/AIDS in the public and private sectors.

Mr. Speaker, 25 years after the III International AIDS Conference was held in Washington, DC, we are now at a point where we have the tools necessary to prevent the spread of HIV and bring an end to the crisis. Now is the time to commit. HIV/AIDS is not a partisan issue. But it will take a bipartisan effort to overcome HIV/AIDS as a nation once and for all. Continued commitment by the United States to HIV/AIDS research, prevention, and treatment programs is crucial to protecting global health. I urge my colleagues to support my resolution, which recognizes the importance of the XIX International AIDS Conference in the global effort to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic and create an "AIDS-free generation."

DAVID HERMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud David Herman for his service to our community.

David Herman, a native of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, is a world-class BMX rider and a